

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11111 190811Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /046 W
-----034062 190816Z /20
O 190813Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1895
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11111

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, UR
SUBJECT: RUMOR OF BREZHNEV'S DEMISE

1. WE ARE AWARE FROM THE APWIRE THAT AP WASHINGTON HAS ASKED ITS LOCAL BUREAU TO CHECK A RUMOR, WHICH APPARENTLY ORIGINATED IN WASHINGTON, THAT BREZHNEV HAD DIED. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION THIS IS TRUE, AND NEITHER DOES AP'S MOSCOW BUREAU. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AP MOSCOW DID DO SOME LOCAL CHECKING, INCLUDING A CALL TO VIKTOR LOUIS, BUT TURNED UP NOTHING.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, BREZHNEV HAS BEEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT VISIT OF THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT. THE MOST RECENT PUBLIC EVENT WAS A KREMLIN SIGNING CEREMONY MAY 18, SHOWN ON THE EVENING TV NEWS THAT DAY. BREZHNEV WAS PRESENT, AND HIS APPEARANCE SEEMED NORMAL.

3. THE TV SCHEDULE FOR TODAY, MAY 19, LISTS A NEWS SPECIAL AT 4:45 P.M. THIS PROBABLY WILL BE LIVE COVERAGE OF THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW. IF THAT IS THE CASE, BREZHNEV OF COURSE SHOULD BE ON HAND.
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Message Attributes

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